[29th October 1935

Appointment of staff for the conduct of elections to local boards.

* 246 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many units have been sanctioned for the conduct of elections as contemplated in Act XIII of 1935;

(*b*) what the establishment is of each unit; what the name is of the officer at the head of each unit; what his qualifications, experience and special training in this work are and what the appointment is, if any, held by him previous to this and whether each of them has been permanently taken to this place;

(*c*) what the special qualification and training are for the other staff of each unit;

(*d*) where each of the units is working now and when they are expected to complete the elections in that district; and

(*e*) whether a copy of the instructions issued to such staff in the matter of conduct of their work will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) Eight.

(*b*) Each unit consists on an average of an election officer, five assistant election officers and one clerk. Particulars regarding the names and qualifications of the election officers are given below:—

Name.	Qualifications, etc.
Abdul Khadir Schamnad Sahib	Deputy Tahsildar.
Muhammad Vajiuddin Sahib	Do.
M.R.Ry. B. Ganesh	Do.
,, D. Balasundaram Pillai	Do.
,, P. M. Subrahmanya Ayyar ..	Do.
,, P. Srimannarayana	Do.
,, Stanis Sundararaj	Do.
,, S. Rangaswami	B.A., a clerk of the office of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards with experience in election work.

Of the seven deputy tahsildars one has had previous experience in election work. The entire staff has been appointed on a temporary basis.

(*c*) The rest of the staff of each election unit has been drafted from among the lower division clerks of the Revenue Department. Previous experience as revenue inspector was insisted on in the case of Assistant Election Officers.

(*d*) The units are working at Ellore, Guntur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Vellore, Cuddalore, Tinnevelly and Mangalore. They are expected to complete the elections as soon as possible after the electoral rolls are finally published.

(*e*) No.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know, Sir, whether these Deputy Tahsildars have been selected from the same district or from any district where suitable officers were available?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am afraid I cannot answer the question without notice. The staff was appointed in consultation with the Board of Revenue and the Collectors."

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Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—" May I ask whether there have been any complaints to the Inspector of Local Boards to the effect that the staff granted to the Inspector of Local Boards for election purposes is not satisfactory and that Divisional Officers should be appointed as Election Officers in preference to Deputy Tahsildars?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I am not aware of any such complaints. I shall make enquiries."

Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—" May I ask whether the Government have received any complaints to the effect that the Deputy Tahsildars, coming as they do from the lower ranks of the service, are not discharging their duties satisfactorily as Election Officers?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As a whole I can say that they have been discharging their duties satisfactorily. If the hon. Member, however, brings to my notice any particular case, I shall investigate."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask in how many districts where elections are in progress the electoral rolls have been completed and the elections are going on?"

Representations against the retrospective operation of G.O. No. 4619, L. & M., dated 20th October 1934, regarding the revision of salaries of teachers under local boards.

* 247 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been made to him that the G.O. No. 4619, L. & M., dated 20th October 1934, gives retrospective effect to the new scale of salaries for teachers and thereby prejudices old entrants; and

(*b*) what action has been taken on those representations?

A.—(*a*) The Government Order was brought into force on the 1st November 1934. Representations have been received that the new scales prejudice teachers already in service.

(*b*). Government have called on Presidents of District Boards and executive authorities of municipalities to submit statements in respect of those cases in which local bodies consider that there is hardship in giving effect to the above Government Order. Orders have issued on some of the statements so far received.

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" May I ask whether it is not a principle that so far as Government servants are concerned, a new scale should not affect old incumbents?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Yes, in the case of Government service it is so."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" May I ask whether there is any reason why this same standard of equity should not be applied to the servants of local bodies also?"